

Saturday, November 15, 2014

La Porte Plant, (Du Pont) La Porte, Texas

A leak of Methyl Mercaptan, occurred at the DuPont facility in La, Porte, and Texas. Du Pont ordered employees to shelter in place until the facility was cleared. Four other tenant companies located on the property were also ordered to shelter in place. The all clear was issued at 10:06 am with the exception of the hotzone. Current statements from DuPont attribute the release to failure of a valve on a Methyl Mercaptan container.

As of 5:30 pm, the Houston Hazmat team was decontaminated the hot zone and would begin the recovery of bodies of the victims.

Earlier in the day, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office issued this alert to residents: "If you are smelling gas or a foul smell in your area, it may be due to a chemical leak at the DuPont plant in southeast Houston. If you smell the odor inside your home, contact the Sheriff's Office or your local fire department."

The Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) assisted the emergency response team. Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) is a non-profit organization combining the fire-fighting, rescue, hazardous material handling and emergency medical capabilities of the refining and petrochemical industry in the Houston Ship Channel area.

EPA's emergency response personnel along with its START contractor were activated at 8:00 am. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is on site along with the US Coast Guard Sector Houston.

Harris County Pollution Control Services conducting off-site monitoring. As of 10:46, no off-site releases were detected. EPA START contractor also conducted air monitoring and did not detect any off-site releases.

Demographics of surrounding community:

- There are no schools or hospitals near the facility.
- Closest Residence: (1900 people live with 1.5 miles)
- Closest Nursing Home: There are at least 2 nursing homes within a 5 mile of the facility and at least 4 more within a 10 miles.



(b) (3)

